Informant:	**LMP-S1**	**Spanish**
Date:	**02-25-01**	**Mini DV**
Interviewers:	**C. Hernandez, M. Jones, P. Polk**	
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CH: We left off on…when sometimes mothers don't have enough milk to breast feed their babies, is there something a woman can take to solve this problem?

S1: Yes, there is, but not here. In Guatemala we give them three chicken eggs and three duck eggs, beaten, with a beer. We also give them hot chocolate.

CH: So you don't give this to anyone in here?

S1: No. Tell them, I would like...I have people that are really sick but when you are here they don't, there is a man who is really, really bad shape…(coughing)…. this is going to make a lot of smoke, so we should open the door.

CH: he says to open because these are very smoky.

S1: we still taping?

CH: Yes.

S1: …So this man came…they brought him on Wednesday, I divinated here but they made him some harm (bewitched him), a worker of his. The person had inserted three long nails that have a squared head on the bottom of his foot, they were rusty when they were inserted, you could see it, it's a lady from Honduras and I told him here and he asked if I wanted to see…and I told him that it will travel all the way to his stomach and to his testicle and he told me it had already happen, and his thing was like this, he went to the hospital and they did not cure him, they told him they were going to remove everything and sterilize him. So he came and I treated him and the next day he was already feeling better, it's scary because his leg is like this…and the next day I treated him he got better. But yesterday he was going to come back but he didn't because it got better…but now he does not want to come here because he now thinks this is an evil place.

CH: Who could have stuck the nails in?

S1: He was bewitched, let's say that he works with you and he tells you there is no work anymore but it's more because you're acting up and you think he's doing you some harm, that they just don't want you so I want to do something against that now…bad and she did it. His wife knows about it but she didn't want to come with him because she says she is very Catholic. But it's a thing that can be fatal; if he doesn't get cured he will die. He came for three days in a row and got a better. His brothers and sister are bringing him here, but his wife doesn't want have anything to do with this. She thinks they are going to a 'massaging healer' (sobador) and so…

CH: She is a curandera?

S1: No she is Catholic, like an evangelist.

CH: she thinks you do him harm?

S1: She wants nothing to do with this, she doesn't know, she doesn't want to worry about her husband, the woman that did this was a worker of his from Honduras, I told him that here. And so after I gave the consultation he told me it's true that of what I said and he was all swollen and so I cured him and now he does not want to come because he says his wife is scared of me. She told him that he would go with the devil is he came here and at night he had a nightmare where a voice told him he was going recover completely, but that he had to give his soul to the devil. And that is not true. I only work with things of God and San Simon.

CH: He was scared.

S1: Yes, and he was very sick and he went to the hospital and they just gave him a couple of shots and told him he needed surgery…can you keep pictures and give to him for the book or how?

CH: If you would like to the people…

S1: They don't want to, they are very private, but they would give me a picture if I were to ask it of them.

CH: One photo is fine if you were to write the cases and then tell us the cases when they come to you, because it's important, they are ailments that doctors don't know how to cure, they don't understand.

Man in Background: Where are you going to put the bed?

S1: Take it out.

CH: He was just telling me about a person's case were a man, somebody did a bad witchcraft thing on him, some woman from Honduras and he had some nails on his foot and it was some kind of badness that she put on him that traveled from his foot towards his stomach and had already reached his private, so all of this was swollen and stuff and doctors said they would give him an operation and remove, and that that man was brought by his sister and some family members and they…in the three days that that man saw S1: he got better and he dreamt that in his dream that he was told that he was going to get better but he would have to make a deal with the devil, but he only had that dream because the influences of his surrounding where telling him that, that this is to do with bad stuff so now he's afraid and he wont come anymore, he could die from something like this if he doesn't get treated and he also mentioned cases like that, and I told him that maybe if he wants to contributing them to use, to just make notes of them, and he says he can get pictures because people don't want to be seen or video taped and he could get pictures and tell us about it…so then…what is 'Panacea', number 55 says 'panacea'…

S1: what is it?

CH: panacea…I don't know what it is.

P: Let me see?

S1: who gave that to him?

CH: We got this from books.

J: General Panacea, it's a general cure-all, it cures a lot of illnesses and it's just generally good for health as well.

CH: OK, is there a treatment that can cure almost anything?

S1: to get rid of any pain?

CH: Yes.

CH: For the outside or the inside? A headache, body pain, or what?

CH: Both.

S1: You take it away with eucalyptus, long leaf, three bottles of alcohol, three bottles of Vick's and you get a pine leaf and you but to boil. When it is…before it boils you put the Vick's in, after boiled take it out in a cup, it has to be in a big pot, the alcohol you put when out, the only thing you boil is the Vick's and eucalyptus, when it is nice and boiled you take it out and outside you put the alcohol and the fluoridated water but before that you have already poured out a cup so that the person goes to shower, when they come out of the shower they will drink that, that cures the soul, head aches, insomnia, bone pains, arthritis and everything.

CH: How many times a day would the person have to take that?

S1: You have to take it three times a day for 5 or 6 days.

CH: And that's a cure all?

S1: Yes.

CH: So he gave me the treatment…and this is something you have recommended?

S1: Over there, not here, here there is no pine. Here I recommended it but it has another ingredient.

CH: What about for a stomach virus?

S1: Like when they have a lot of stomach pains?

CH: What would be like a stomach virus…because we've talked about lots of different stomach problems like ulcers…

P: Like food poisoning…

CH: Food that does you harm.

S1: OK…

CH: Like when they say that food poisons you…toxic food

S1: That you get stomach pains and diarrhea?

CH: Yes, very sick.

S1: I use a tea with 'spearmint' (yerba Buena) to boil, some salt (sal), and then you burn an Encino tree and you add the ashes of the bark of an Encino tree and you drink it.

CH: What about for heat exhaustion, where they become dehydrated and they faint, they can stand the heat, it's too hot outside, I don't know if you saw the news in years past…?

CH: I don't know about that.

CH: How about a tonic for the blood, something to make blood strong?

S1: The only thing we do over there is to take plenty of vitamins, but in herbs, like from a tree called 'incense' (incensio), (verbena), that one is so there is strength in the body, doctor medicine is something I don't know about.

CH: Do you have something for people that are exhausted all the time?

S1: blood or body fatigued?

CH: Their body, and they feel they need something to fortalice the blood…

S1: Yes, people come in really tired and they can't go on anymore, and their pain gets taken away and they feel very happy.

CH: More men than women?

S1: First when I give them…at the three days that I give them a bath they are sleeping and they don't want to sleep and from there they get up happy…they have no pain but I give them mineral salts three bottles of fluoridated water and one of Vick's, you do that for three days.

CH: In baths?

S1: That takes away stress and all lethargy.

CH: Who would you say asks for it most, men or women?

S1: Men and women because they have lots of pain here and there and they feel very bad, and sometimes they looked very depressed.

CH: How about infection, when you get infections in the bladder, problems peeing (mal de orin)?

S1: 'Shave-grass' (Cola de Caballo) tea. Gringos here use it as a decoration; it's a tree that is…maybe you've seen it. It is also good for kidney and urinary infections. Aufalco (sp.??) In Guatemala it's a gigantic tree with white flowers.

CH: You use the flowers or the leaves?

S1: The flower, so you boil these flowers and you drink it like water for about four days and it cleans your stomach, the kidney system and it longer burns to pee and there is also another one…when you have a burning/pain from problem peeing (mal de orin), the fastest thing you can do is get a bit of saliva with some salt and you put it right here and it goes away…

CH: In the bellybutton?

S1: Yes, and there is another one where they use (rosa Jamaica), it comes out red and also rice, you get a lot of it, about 2 to 3 pounds and you put it to soak and you drink the water, or you boil it, but only for a little bit and then you get the water…

CH: You drink it, as it were water?

S1: Yes, for the kidneys, for the lungs also.

CH: And have you recommended this to people?

S1: Many.

CH: Here?

S1: Here there are many people that suffer from that.

CH: Men or women or…

S1: both.

CH: what is a whooping cough?

P: I don't know exactly.

CH: I don't know whooping cough in Spanish, are there different kinds of coughs?

S1: *Tosferina,* dry cough and regular cough, the one that comes with a cold. Tosferina is a cough that sounds like this (begins to cough), there is another that is 'anemic cough' (tos anemica) that they say you have anemia in the lungs…

CH: Gives you anemia in the lungs?

S1: Yes, you become like tuberculosis.

CH: And they cant cough or what?

S1: The lungs blow up and they die.

CH: Is there a cure?

S1: Yes, but it's hard because it's something very hard…you could die

CH: Tosferina?

S1: Yes, it's a real dry cough like it's choking you…in Guatemala you cure it with a flower called (mano de leon). There is lots of it in the coast, here too, I saw it in some place…oh that Tosferina causes women to urinate, they urinate from the strength of the cough.

CH: But just women or men too?

S1: Women more, they get it bad.

CH: And the other coughs that you explained, regular cough…?

S1: Those coughs come from a cold, but you can cure that with ginger (jenjibre) and eucalyptus (eucalipto) or honey (miel) with lemon (limon).

CH: Tosferina is only cured by that flower you mentioned?

S1: That's the one I know and with putting to boil half of a 'purple onion' (cebolla morada) with a bit of honey. But it is so strong that it almost chokes you, when you take it it's really strong, it's like you're dying…

CH: It's just drinking the water?

S1: you put to like turn down the onion and you put honey on it, pure honey (miel), not the honey in the little bear bottle…

CH: And the other flower you mentioned can only be found in Guatemala?

S1: You can also find it here- around Huntington Park I saw one. I brought some, they are these big leaves, very elegant, but in Guatemala you only find it in the coastal regions.

CH: And how do you prepare it?

CH: You boil one leaf.

CH: Just one?

CH: Yeah, cause it's a really large leaf. It's called (mano de leon), it's for tosferina.

CH: So you have to take that a few times a day?

S1: three times a day and you get rid of it.

CH: That's it, we're done.

P: So what kind of illnesses does he have to work on the rain, like on a day today, when somebody is out in the rain or gets wet?

CH: Are there different illnesses, or what type of illnesses could people get in the rain seasons?

S1: First, right now there are lots of sick people, with fevers, with coughs, runny noses, headaches, body aches, that they can barely stand, fever, due to the change of whether also affects a lot of people here. Right now that it's raining…I wasn't sick but since I only wear sandals and the floor is cold and I walk through water and it's sprinkling, gives me this thing where I can't even talk. My voice gets hoarse. In order to cure it you need (Verbena), you drink it and take a baths to get rid of the cold.

CH: what kind of baths?

S1: Baths of (siete montes), with that you can get rid of it, any type of (siete montes)…you can do baths of eucalyptus (eucalipto) and fluoridated water (agua flourida)

CH: What are the *INAUDIBLE* mostly typically used?

S1: Rue (Ruda), Rosemary (romero), in hot teas, eucalyptus (eucalipto), sweet basil (albahaca), geranium (geranio), and (altamiza). Mostly these one, they are the strongest they are warm and this (the illness) comes from the cold.

CH: So one must cure oneself with plants of hot properties?

S1: Yes, with ginger (jenjibre) mostly too ??? because if you have a bad cough, what happens is…like drinking it with some honey (miel), but that's a soft cough, but there is a cough that is very deep, that one I don't know.
P: Are there cold plants?

S1: Many.

CH: For example which ones?

S1: There are different ones that are…you know what's also good for that is a bath of cypress (cipres), you cut the branches and boil them.

CH: you cut the branches?

S1: Yes.

CH: With the stick and leaves?

S1: yes, another thing, to take out, sometimes you have a headache from the runny nose, what we do is, in Guatemala, not here, you put to boil a lot of water and you put it tons of sugar and you do like this and a towel here and the juice to go inside. You can get rid of a headache and a cold with this.

CH: These are cold remedies?

S1: Hot, very hot, you should not be hit by air, you have to cover your face because air could hit it, with my kids what I've done when they have high fevers, I take a washbasin made of plastic or metal, I take some 10 lemons (limones) I cut them in half and I squeeze them, I buy a pound of pig lard and we pour it in there and you put three bottles of alcohol and we wash the lard and there we take it all over the body and when it's like with that fever that someone is going to die, with this it goes down quick…

CH: That's what you do for your kids?

S1: Yes, even now that they are older, I tell them to get into shorts and that I'm going to bathe them, it goes away in seconds. Another thing, when a person is really sick, that they are in bed for sometime and their feet are swollen for sometime, or that they have a fever, see the fever will heat this up here and make your feet cold and so you put hot bottles on the feet, you put some water, really hot and you tie it to the bottom of the feet, that will lower the fever.

CH: So the majority of the plants and methods of curing the person are more hot than cold?

S1: Yes, they are hot.

CH: Is there a case where you have to use a cold remedy?

S1: No, none, I've never done one of those.

CH: Most of the remedies are hot remedies, people have major fevers, they'll take something real hot and put it at their feet…

P: Can we get into more now, of his life story?

CH: OK…he wanted, well now that we finished the list we wanted to ask you a bit about you, who you are, where were you born?

P: When did he come to the US?

CH: When did you come to the U.S.?

S1: OK, I've been here since February 25, 1988.

CH: When you arrived you came to California?

S1: I've only been here. I haven't gone anywhere.

CH: In what area did you live in Los Angeles?

S1: I've lived my whole time in that building that's in front there

CH: You still live there?

S1: No, now I live on 1552 third and Venice. I just bought this house a year ago and I owned a business on Normandy and Pico called Centro Espiritual San Simon and I had another one between Venice and Harvard(?) called Botanica San Simon de los Llanos. But I already sold them, I sold them about four years ago, the one on Pico and the one on Venice about two months ago. So now I just have this one. You can't work like that.

CH: you can't be everywhere…

S1: Yes, when I had just arrived here I lived on Exposition and Ruth Helen (sp.??), I lived there for about two years. That's where I started working but just a little bit, because I didn't have a license.

CH: In Botanica stuff?

S1: In things I know, but I got out of there because there were many evangelists there, they would open the door and see candles and they would say "There's the witch/wizard!"

CH: You once told us you worked in Oxnard on grape vines?

S1: Yeah. I've known how to work on the spiritual since I was about 8 years old. I haven't had a mother since I was three. I only have a father, he is Evangelist. And my mother died when she was like 20 years old. She only had me, the oldest and a sister who's named Maria Dalia and brother named Ronaldo, but he passed away too. So it's just me and a sister and…but my mother got married when she was like 14, so she died around 20 or 21 years of age and I stayed at home but then I went to work in the capital and then I went back home. In the capital I worked in a small grocery store, they sold everything there…and from there I developed, I was like his son, he paid me, I was

happy, that was about the earthquake in Guatemala in 1976, so I went to see my family and one of my female cousins grabbed me and told me I was going home with them, So I worked with her family taking care of cows and then they did not let me work because they were all evangelists and they did not let me do this. And around the age of 16 I married my wife.

CH: That's young.

S1: People over there get married at around the age of 15. If you are 20 years old nobody wants you anymore.

CH: I'm old already.

S1: If somebody touched your hand or used you, nobody wants you. So either you get married at 15 or you don't get married at all. It's the law of that place.

CH: So you were married at 16.

S1:And my wife was 13. Now she has 7 kids and is really young. She looks like you.

CH: Is she here too?

S1: Yeah, she's here but she doesn't live with me. She came with me but she went elsewhere, she's in Washington, Seattle. We lived together in Guatemala for about 5 years and after I had my kids with her, I left her and came over here. So when I got here I didn't have a place to go and did not know where to go, I didn't know any one. I was in MEXICALI, and from Mexicali somebody took me to Tijuana and I worked there for a while.

CH: so you didn't have any friends or family?

S1: No one.

CH: What was your main motivation for coming here?

S1: we didn't have anything, nothing, nothing.

CH: even though you had your own trade?

S1: this don't pay enough in Guatemala. They pay you like 25 or 10 cents. There you can cure for free, but here you don't because here you have to pay for a license, you have to pay for everything. You charge people, not a lot but for the store and for the workers

CH: And when you were in Guatemala, did you ever work in anything related to Botanicas?

CH: There are no Botanicas in Guatemala. They are called Spiritual Centers (centros espirituales). They say, 'let's go with brother so-and-so', there are no botanicas there are

little shops where they sell beans, corn, cigars, candles, rosaries, *novenas*, oils-actually they don't work with oils over there, they work with shrubbery and candles.

CH: Do those markets have a specific name?

S1: No, They are tiny shops but are full of things. They have candles, images, they have everything.

CH: When did you start developing your knowledge about herbs and plants?

S1: I have known about them since I was a child. But when I got married…I wasn't working in this, I no longer wanted to work in this, and when my first son was born, Edwin, about a month after her pregnancy I began to work but I did not work like this, I worked concentrated and the spirits would come and tell me things, so if there was no one for me to talk to I could not work, it was a spirit that would come down. So…I could not work in that time because I was relatives that were Evangelists and I had to be there since I didn't have anywhere else to go. I had lived with my dad most of my childhood, but when I turned six I moved out and started working because we had very difficult times. Before I started working I took care of animals, brought wood, and took care of my house. I would put the *mixtama*, corn, I was so small, I had to put a stool to reach the stove and one day I took it out and the pot broke and it burnt my entire face. Then I was thrown by a car. I had very many bad. Then I started working. I used to be very focused on my job. But not anymore. I would be talking when all of a sudden I would just fall. My wife would get scared and run out the room, she would leave me there and go call my aunt Virgilia and she is a bit of spiritist and she would come and she would talk and she would give consul, with some other spirits of other brothers, I didn't have picture frames, I only had San Judas Tadeo- but not the one that they have here with a machete, but the one that had an escuadra (it's a smaller machete used in farms). Because I had left my saint in the capital with my boss, so I only had San Simon. But since that man left me when I got married then ???.

CH: you want to jump in and add anything?

P: You're doing great just keep…doing perfect…

S1: That's what happened when the spirits would come down, only my aunt knew how to pray. She would pray an Our Father or a Holy Mary. Sometimes, today, when the spirits come down and are present here, they make faces at me, they say ugly things, they try to confuse you. But if that is not the spirit that you were trying to call, it interrupts your mind. It happened to me many times. So a lot of evil comes down and they bad mouth. There is now one to pray, no one to talk to them and if you concentrate and there is no one to talk then one dies.

CH: Right, because you become confused.

S1: No, the spirits come down, it's not me it's another and so I don't work like that.

CH: So it's dangerous for you?

S1: Yes, the ones that work that way are very original, in Guatemala the ones who work like they do the tarot, I don't do that I just look at the person, except here I do the cards because if I don't the people don't believe, but I work where and like this.

CH: At what age did you begin to receive the spirits in that way?

S1: When I was fifteen years old

CH: before you married?

S1: Yes, that's when I started.

CH: And at what age did you stop working in that manner?

S1: I was only about two years doing that, yes but…I dedicate myself to this, I worked on the field, I got married we both were business people, we would sell maybe a market but we had nothing in Guatemala, we had…when we got married the next day a wind took the three sheet metals we called a home…this here is a palace compared to what we had there, we had some sheet metal where the water came through, it was dirt not ground…

CH: All the houses that were like that in El Salvador are the one that one that fell during the earthquake…

S1: those don't fall down, the ones that fall are the ones on Bajararequi (sp.??), that was my life and I came here and I began to *INAUDIBLE* with my wife and children, I came here but it didn't last but two months to get here.

CH: did you come with a Coyote (guide who helps you cross the border)?

S1: Yes, but he took me only to Mexicalli and there he took my money and everything and he left me there…he would hit us, my pants were all ripped and bearded and very skinny and from there a guy from Veracruz helped me and I went to Michoacan and they asked me what I was doing there, Enrique, who was a coyote and he brought me over, they crossed me over and took me to their house and 39th and San Pedro, but when I got here I didn't know my way and I was embarrassed to stay indoors because there were two couples and I did not have a job and the men did so only the women stayed at home, I would go to the street and I would tell myself that at least a sweeping job I could get…so I got a job of lifting pallets, they would give me 10 dollars a week, I lasted along time with a leather jacket I found on the street in Tijuana, where dogs would sleep, it was right there with some dogs and someone gave it to me so that I could cross and they told me to give it back…because when I came over I was very skinny…I went to work there but they would yell at me and call me names and they would through my food and I had a family member here and I went to look for him and he told me that he wasn't who I looked for, but he was my cousin by the name of Freddy and he told me…I lived here and he lived here and I remembered that that was him because he lived in my house when he was a kid, but when I went to him and asked if his name was Freddie he said no and I went home and I passed by and I said the guy named Freddie, they call him "rabanito"

but he is from Guatemala and I told them he's my cousin but he doesn't want to talk to me…and so the woman of the house told me that was rude of him and she told me to go with her, she told me to move with her to her home, god bless them for feeding me and finding me a job…

CH: With Freddie's wife?

S1: No, the owner of the house, Freddie didn't put me up…after she had taken me in she asked me why he was embarrassed of me his cousin, is it just because you are here and he just arrived? He said No, that he doesn't know me and I told him, you are the son of so-and-so and he said No, it wasn't until a month later he apologized for not recognizing me and he spoke to me, ???, he told me to go back to Guatemala, he had money, I did not go back and I stayed right there in that house with the woman and I didn't visit him, I helped her to clean homes and put carpets, she wouldn't give me anything but she gave me where to sleep, they bought me clothes, shoes, socks and from there I was told to go to the corner and get a job, I would go where the 405 is, on Pico and Sawtelle, that is where I would go to get a job

CH: With the guys that wait…

S1: Stopping cars, but I would get a job every day, I would go with the white guys, they would pay me 100 to 70 dollars a day, they would say here comes the witch/wizard, and they would call me names, the guys there, they would tell me to leave

CH: How did they know that you were…

S1: Because as soon as I got there I would get a job, because I would work with anything

CH: And you worked in, construction?

S1: Yes, opening drainage ditches, I worked chopping down like eucalyptus trees, these big ones, I would climb them and cut them, putting fences, cutting stones, in Beverly Hills ??? water, on the roof, I worked during the time of the earthquake in Northridge, I didn't have this then, I worked a bit…I would work on chimneys, construction and all that I can do, I can break flooring and all…after that my wife came and my wife came with problems and she thought that I had lots of money and I didn't, and I went to the fields, I left her here with some friends and there I went to cut grapes, asparagus, pick potato and garlic, onion in Stockton, we went to grow onion, the little ones, to cut pears, oranges, all that stuff, cherries, I would fall…when working on peaches, with those big ladders, I would climb all the way up and because we would wear these buckets to pick the stuff I would fall, I was bruised for about a year on the legs, from the very top I would fall…

CH: But you liked that job?

S1: There was no alternative, because in our countries…back there I left my land, I gave it away because I had to come over…

CH: You came in search of a job?

S1: I got money together, I got some 5000 quetzales together, I left only about 300 of that ??? job ??? and we did not get anything until finally working over there I went to the grapes an asparagus, I got not that much money because INS gets involved with all that and I did not have any papers, that started for me with a white lady asking me why I did not put it an application for work or asylum, because we came here during the guerilla issues in Guatemala, they bothered us a lot, they took my wife, and me they took me, they wanted to take us…

CH: the guerilla fighters?

S1: Yes, they would come in the house and take our food, that's why we came, where ever you went they took your food and if you gave them food then the military would come down on you and you gave to the military the guerillas would come down on you…

CH: so you are not well on either side?

S1: No, and my sons were born in a small house, we covered up with some ??? so you don't see the kids, they were all born there…

CH: How many kids do you have?

S1: Edwin, Byron and Wilmer and Jessica that was born here…but all my children are here, I went to get them, that time that I worked…but my wife asked for too much money and I sent it to her and since she was pregnant she was not working and I would send her money and one day she told me that she wanted nothing to do with me and we broke up and I told her I was going to work and I worked and I brought my kids over…

CH: Because your kids were still in Guatemala while your wife was here?

S1: Yes.

CH: SO she left?

S1: Yes.

CH: She took Jessica or left her with you.

S1: Jessica was born and she took her, she has her and she never allows for us to see her.

CH: how long did you work in Stockton?

S1: About 3 years.

CH: And then you came back?

S1: I would go and come back every 15th but I worked there and I came back and I got a license and I did not have papers and someone put the store under his name and it was him, I started with only a box of candles, I did not have any showcases, right there on 3520, right there in the front, that's were I was, and from there the store got bigger and I go out to cure to many different places, they call me from very far, I go to Florida, I go to Colorado, I go to Sacramento, I got to San Francisco.

CH: Different people call you?

S1: yes, but usually when I got I go for about 4 or 5 people, they pay my ticket and everything.

CH: How do they know about you?

S1: Someone tells them and since…well now I've gone a bit modern I've gone into the Internet…

CH: Do you still…

S1: Still there, more business on there…

CH: So the lady you spoke of in Stockton that began to tell you to ask for papers and asylum…

S1: She's American.

CH: That helped you?

S1: She came and said to ask for an application to immigration services, she went because we couldn't go and she did us the favor and they gave us the permit

CH: Oh, so that's the permit you still have?

S1: Yes, I renew it each year but thanks to god that they have never taken it from me, they always give it to me, every 12 months, about 2 years ago I was very sick and it passed by 6 months and I did not go…

CH: Because you have to keep renewing it?

S1: Every year, yes.

CH: And so with that same permit you've been able to obtain this very business and the other ones?

S1: With this I've been able to have my businesses, school for my children, everything, I got my kids permits too, one of them is going to go to college, but with permits, we don't ask for anything more, just social and ID.

CH: And so how many years ago would you say you put down your first botanica?

S1: About 8 years ago.

CH: And this one how long have you had it?

S1: About 5 or 8…I think 8 or 5 years here, I don't remember, here I don't remember, over there I think it was about 4 or 5 years. But from here I'm not moving, it's very close

J: What does he like about this particular site for a botanica spiritual center? Why here? and why does he have more people on Tuesday and Friday than other days? If that's true.

CH: He says, why do you like this area so much? Why did you decide in staying here and not moving from here?

S1: Look, I used to not work in this here because I was afraid of the law, it's very dangerous here, (…inaudible…), here it's worse than over there and so I was afraid of that, because people at seeing a candle they are giving you problems and so I did not want to anything, I was just working of flooring…working with Americans, I like working with them a lot, delivering antique things, I also put a store on La Brea of antique things and I like to work but with what San Simon told me, I had my alter inside my apartment, he told me, you will move down, I was in (apartment) 411, and he told me that I will move down, that I should talk to the man to give me an apartment and he did, he gave me a locale, the very owner…

CH: the owner of that building?

S1: yes.

CH: There are locales inside?

S1: No, outside…I was in 411 and I moved down, I asked the man to rent it to me and he did, but since the first week I began to work I would come in a lot and I paid him 6 months in advance and that's why I moved there.

CH: And so that's where it started, your work…

S1: here there is no clientele here because it's not a business area, but he told me that I was going to stay here and there I am, over there in that store San Simon would walk and point to things, here to but not a lot, over there he would walk at night, what we have seen here with San Simon is that he slips, he tumbles to one side, he cries or he gets all red…

CH: More at night?

S1: Many people have seen him, when I have some problem that has occurred he has some tears right here, I haven't seen it, people have seen that…

CH: That San Simon?

S1: yes, they tell me that San Simon is crying because I'm sad, my saint is very beautiful and performs miracles, I bought him with a person, he is antique, and I've sent him to be fixed, but he's an antique, he's solid wood.

CH: So he was the one that pointed and told you that you should stay here?

S1: …all the time, but then I got him.

CH: Why do you more clientele on Tuesdays and Fridays?

S1: Every day there are people here, sometimes they are here at 7 am knocking on the door and sometimes there is nothing until 12 and on, sometimes in the mornings there are a lot of people and in the afternoon there aren't any but at night it's always full.

CH: I thought your busiest days were Tuesdays and Fridays.

S1: Well, now the time has changed Tuesday is good and Fridays there is no one.

CH: So it changes?

S1: yes.

CH: Things vary, he says, Tuesday and Friday are not necessarily his biggest clientele days, but it varies, San Simon told him that this is the place that he should stay at when he lived in the apartment building across the street on apartment 411, he said San Simon told him one day that he would move down stairs and that's when he started his Botanica businesses and then when he got this place, San Simon told him that this is where you are going to stay, so it's why he has stayed here, not for any other reason

J: How many people does he typically have in a days time? Is there any way that he can remember or estimate?

CH: OK, can you give some percentage of the majority of the people that you see daily? I know that it varies but could you say how many come in the day or the week?

S1: Sometimes I attend 40 to 50 people here, in the store more, but sometimes about 10, Tuesdays and Fridays I attend about 60 people.

CH: Each day?

S1: Yes.

CH: So, Tuesday s and Fridays he says he sees 60 people a day, other days maybe 40 people at a time, some days he has as little as 10.

S1: Always, this store is not the best but it's one of the better ones in that it always has a lot of people and it's recognized by many.

CH: What do the majority of the people come for?

S1: They come mostly for their sick children or they also come for love.

CH: Would you say that the majority of the people come for problems with love or money?

S1: Yes? Because of love and because money is not available or there is no work…for works like of doing harm, I don't do, I don't harm people.

CH: Would you say that…well…I think that there are people that come for medical things or something that hurts or is happening that they go very little and they go more for love problems, but you would say that you have a high percentage of people that say, this is what doctors did to me or someone did me some harm…

S1: Many types come here, but mostly for love.

CH: That's daily?

S1: Yes.

CH: More men than women?

S1: Mixed.

CH: Older…?

S1: Usually the people are 30 and more, 40 to 50 years old…and I don't move from here because my clientele is here and another thing is that all the people want to go with me, they know me and if I don't know how to do many things then I would have to leave but I have no reason to go, because the people that are here one day, one month here and over there, those are the ones that steal money…

CH: They don't have a clientele…

S1: No, they only steal money, I don't steal, if I ask for money then I give people things that I know will cure them, I don't give them doctor medicines I give things that cure, nothing to do with a doctor

J: We are out of tape……. END